

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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R 091600Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7039

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T BLANTYRE 616

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS 5B (1)

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, MZ, MI, ZA, TZ

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S VISIT; PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. BLANTYRE 1472, 10/25/73; B. BLANTYRE 5?2;

C. BLANTYRE 603

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BANDA TOLD AMBASSADOR MAY 8 PORTUGUESE EVENTS AND MOZAMBIQUE IMPLICATIONS WERE MAIN FOCUS OF KAUNDA VISIT TO MALAWI. KAUNDA AND BANDA AGREED TO PRESS ON BOTH SIDES "REASONABLENESS, PATIENCE, RESTRAINT." BANDA FORESEES COOPERATIVE ROLE BASED ON HIS CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE AND KAUNDA'S WITH FRELIMO. KAUNDA MAY ARRANGE FOR FRELIMO LEADERS TO VISIT BANDA. BANDA COUNSELED KAUNDA MEANWHILE TO HALT FRELIMO OPERATIONS FROM ZAMBIA INTO MOZAMBIQUE. TANZANIAN FONMIN MAY SOON VISIT MALAWI. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT BANDA MAY 8 HE HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY REGARDING PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S VISIT AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR AFRICA OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. HE RECALLED PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS REGARDING HIS ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND ZAMBIA.

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3. PRESIDENT CLAIMED HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON PORTUGUESE SINCE MALAWI INDEPENDENCE IN 1964 TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE OF THEIR AFRICAN POLICIES, USING AS EXAMPLE MALAWI'S MODERATE MULTI-RACIAL POLICY. HE EXERTED INFLUENCE THROUGH REBELLO DE SOUSA, FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL IN MOZAMBIQUE WHO BECAME MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES IN CAETANO GOVERNMENT, AND FORMER RECTOR OF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOURENCO MARQUES WHO BECAME MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE. BOTH MEN HAD BEEN HIS GUESTS IN MALAWI. PRESIDENT THOUGHT HE HAD BUILT UP INFLUENCE WITH CAETANO. HIS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WAS FIRST JAIME DE SOUSA, HONORARY PORTUGUESE COUNSUL IN MALAWI, THEN JORGE JARDIM. (PRESIDENT SAID JARDIM HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY IN PORTUGAL SINCE JANUARY.) EVEN SALAZAR IN HIS LAST DAYS WAS COMING TO BELIEVE CHANGES REQUIRED IN OVERSEAS POLICIES. CAETANO WAS ANXIOUS TO BRING THEM ABOUT TO EXTENT HIS POLITICAL POSITION PERMITTED. GENERAL ALERT IN JANUARY IN PORTUGAL CAUSED BY REACTION OF RIGHT TO CAETANO'S EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. GENERAL SPINOLA TOOK OVER GOVERNMENT WITH CAETANO AGREEMENT. IT WAS A PITY THAT CAETANO COULD NOT SEE HIS PLANS FULFILLED BUT WAS INSTEAD EXILED TO MADEIRA.

4. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD LONG AGO INVITED BANDA TO VISIT ZAMBIA. BANDA REPLIED THAT SINCE HE WAS THE ELDER KAUNDA SHOULD COME FIRST IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFRICAN CUSTOM. KAUNDA VISIT, FIRST SCHEDULED LAST SEPTEMBER THEN IN JANUARY AND IN APRIL, FINALLY TOOK PLACE MAY 6. VISIT WAS AT KAUNDA'S INITIATIVE. PRESIDENT SAID HE THOUGHT KAUNDA MIGHT CANCEL TRIP AFTER HEARING HIS MAY 3 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF C). BUT,

NO, KAUNDA SAID HE ORDERED PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE BROADCAST IN FULL OVER ZAMBIAN RADIO. AS HE HAD TO PRESS AT AIRPORT MAY 6, PRESIDENT STATED THAT NEITHER PRESIDENT KAUNDA NOR PRESIDENT NYERERE ANY LONGER SUPPORT MALAWI REBELS. RE RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA HE SAID TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER APPROACHED MALAWI MINISTER AT MEETING RECENTLY IN NAIROBI ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO MALAWI. PRESIDENT EXPECTS FOREIGN MINISTER TO COME HERE SOON.

5. PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT PORTUGUESE EVENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MOZAMBIQUE WERE MAIN FOCUS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS
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WITH KAUNDA (WE UNDERSTAND TWO LEADERS MET ALONE FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS), KAUNDA AGREED WITH HIM THAT THEY SHOULD ACT TOGETHER AND PRESS ON BOTH SIDES "PATIENCE, RESTRAINT, AND REASONABLENESS." KAUNDA WAS PLEASED WITH CHANNEL BANDA HAD HELPED ESTABLISH WITH PORTUGUESE THROUGH JARDIM. DE SOUSA HAD VISITED LUSAKA SINCE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL AND HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AFTER KAUNDA'S VISIT TO MALAWI ASKING HIM TO COME AGAIN. PRESIDENT EXPECTED HE WOULD GO

IN A WEEK OR SO. KAUNDA WILL SEEK TO ARRANGE FOR FRELIMO LEADERS FROM DAR TO COME TO SEE BANDA IN BLANTYRE. FRELIMO LEADERS HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED TO COME AND BANDA EXPECTS THEY WILL DO SO. PRESIDENT SAID EVERYONE KNOWS FRELIMO IS PRESENT IN MALAWI BUT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS FROM MALAWI INTO MOZAMBIQUE OR TO CARRY ARMS. IN CONTRAST FRELIMO OPERATES FROM ZAMBIA INTO MOZAMBIQUE. PRESIDENT SAID HE TOLD KAUNDA THIS SHOULD CEASE.

6. REGARDING FUTURE PRESIDENT SAID NO ONE COULD SAY NOW HOW THINGS WILL DEVELOP. NEED AT PRESENT IS TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING TALKS GOING SO THAT LEADERS ON OPPOSING SIDES WILL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, TO DRINK TOGETHER. HE FORESAW COOPERATIVE ROLE FOR HIMSELF AND KAUNDA BASED ON HIS LINKS WITH PORTUGAL AND KAUNDA'S WITH FRELIMO.

7. COMMENT: AS IS HIS CUSTOM AND AS HE DID AT MAY 3 PRESS CONFERENCE THE PRESIDENT SOUGHT TO PLAY UP HIS OWN ROLE. HE WAS HAPPY OVER KAUNDA VISIT AND PROSPECTS FOR TALKS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND NATIONALIST GROUPS AND BELIEVED SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD VINDICATE HIS POLICIES OF CONTACT AND DIALOGUE. HE INSISTED AS HE HAD PUBLICLY THAT MALAWI WOULD NOT CHANGE THESE POLICIES WHICH HAD SHOWN THEIR WORTH. EVEN ADDING IN SIGNIFICANT DISCOUNT FACTOR, PRESIDENT BANDA MAY BE ABLE FILL USEFUL INTERMEDIARY ROLE, ESPECIALLY IF HE IS ABLE TO WORK OUT EFFECTIVE COORDINATED APPROACH WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA. HE OFFERED KEEP US INFORMED PROVIDED WE MAINTAIN AS IN PAST COMPLETE DISCRETION ABOUT INFORMATION PROVIDED.

8. OUR IMPRESSION IS KAUNDA VISIT WAS RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY MALAWI PUBLIC AND REGARDED AS WELCOME SIGNAL OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. MALAWI TIMES GAVE EXTENSIVE NEWS AND PICTORIAL COVERAGE. IT ALSO WIDELY
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ACCEPTED BY PUBLIC THAT MOZAMBIQUE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT DISCUSSED.
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